

## ABSTRACT

A label 10 for electronics components has a substrate 12 and a coded data symbol 14 carried by the substrate, for instance a silicon nitride wafer. The format of the symbol 5 14, preferably Data Matrix, is such as to facilitate accommodation of the substrate 12 on the limited space available on components 8 or carriers 2 for the components 8. The symbol 14 is formed by etching an etchable layer 32, such as gold, using an electron beam technique and is read with a vision system 20 wherein diffuse red light is projected on to the symbol and the reflected pattern, corresponding to the pattern of 10 the symbol 14, is captured and decoded.

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